



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TC 1700

Re Application of:

Nicolas AMOUROUX et al.

Examiner: Christopher M. Keehan

Serial No.: 10/088,560

Group Art Unit: 1712

Filed: July 18, 2002

Title: METAL SURFACES COATED WITH FLUORINATED POLYMERS

SUPPLEMENTAL REPLY

Mail Stop
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

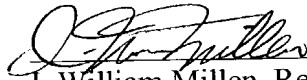
Sir:

It has just come to Counsel's attention that the chemically modified fluoropolymer is mentioned in the published French application which is submitted with the attached Information Disclosure Statement. This public French application corresponds to the Assignee's, U.S. application 09/575,368 filed May 22, 2000, a pending application in art unit 1745, the Examiner being Mark Ruthkosky. For the Examiner's convenience attached is a copy of the claims at issue in said application and the remainder of the application as well. Thus, the copending application can be used as the English translation of the published French application.

Whereas it is Applicants' opinion that the French published application by itself or in combination with other information does not provide a prima facie case of unpatentability of any of the claims at issue, the submitted Information Disclosure Statement is being provided in an abundance of caution. Furthermore, if necessary, Applicants can submit an English translation of French application 0009474 filed July 19, 2000, thereby providing the present application with an effective U.S. filing date under 35 U.S.C. 119 of July 19, 2000, and this earlier filing date will

antedate the publication date of November 24, 2000 of the French published application. It is believed, however, that it is unnecessary to submit an expensive certified English translation of Applicants' priority document in the absence of sound grounds for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: ATOCM-254

Date: January 9, 2004

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